

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin acknowledges the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for babies and their parents and promotes inclusive support for every family, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that makes every family and community unique; and

WHEREAS; while there is limited research on the prevalence of breastfeeding among Native families—a reflection of the unique barriers and systemic racism faced by Indigenous people in healthcare, employment, and community settings—it is well-documented that racial disparities in breastfeeding rates persist due to these barriers; and

WHEREAS; reducing racial disparities in healthcare and birth outcomes, promoting diversity in the lactation field, and changing systems and structures to better support families is critical, and the state applauds community-based breastfeeding organizations, including the Native Breastfeeding Coalition of Wisconsin, that are championing this important work; and

WHEREAS; while August is National Breastfeeding Month, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week is dedicated to prioritizing and celebrating the experiences of Native families and is centered on encouraging breastfeeding as a way to combat the systemic injustices that prevent families from achieving their full potential; and

WHEREAS; as stated by the Indigenous Milk Medicine Collective, “Indigenous milk medicine is a first sacred food and a sustainable food system that advances rematriation, public health, and ceremony;” and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins community-based organizations across the state, along with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in celebrating breastfeeding, promoting awareness of its benefits, and ensuring equitable access and opportunity for all families, now and in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 8 through 14 2023 as

INDIGENOUS MILK MEDICINE WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 21st day of July 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State